

LYNWOOD UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Education Center 11321 Bullis Road, Board Room B-105, B-106, Lynwood, California, 90262
April 8, 2021

MINUTES

1. IMPORTANT ADVISORY REGARDING PUBLIC MEETING (COVID-19)

The public meeting was held at 11321 Bullis Road, Lynwood, CA, 90262. Public participation was subject to the State's Guidance and the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health Order. Important information on how to participate in the public meeting and submit public comment were outlined on the agenda.

2. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Board of Education, held on April 8, 2021, was called to order at 5:34 p.m. by the President, Mrs. Maria G. Lopez, to conduct a closed session. Superintendent Crosthwaite took the roll.

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Mrs. Maria G. Lopez, President
Mr. Alfonso Morales, Esq., Clerk
Mr. Gary Hardie, Jr., Member (*Arrived during Closed Session.*)
Dr. Alma Carina Castro, Member

Legal Counsel, Mr. Terence Gallagher of Olivarez Madruga Lemieux O'Neill, LLP, was also present.

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
ON APRIL 8, 2021**

Motion to approve the April 8, 2021 agenda by Mr. Morales; Seconded by Dr. Castro.

Individual votes by roll call:

Mrs. Lopez - Yes
Mr. Morales - Yes
Mr. Hardie - Absent
Dr. Castro – Yes

Item passed with 3-0 votes.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT/COMMUNICATIONS – *None.*

6. GOVERNING BOARD - Recess to Closed Session at 5:35 p.m.

7. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION/CALL TO ORDER

The Board reconvened into open session at 6:00 p.m. The Superintendent took the roll.

8. ROLL CALL

Present: Mrs. Maria G. Lopez, President
Mr. Alfonso Morales, Esq., Clerk
Mr. Gary Hardie, Jr., Member
Dr. Alma Carina Castro, Member

Legal Counsel, Mr. Terence Gallagher of Olivarez Madruga Lemieux O'Neill, LLP, was also present.

9. FLAG SALUTE led by Dr. Castro

10. PUBLIC COMMENT/COMMUNICATIONS

10.A. Presentation of Applicants to the Vacant Seat on the School Board

The Board received eight applications for the vacant seat on the School Board. The Board received a request from Angel Gonzalez to withdraw his application.

Superintendent Crosthwaite announced that staff would be drawing names for a random selection. Each applicant was given an opportunity to address the Board and participate in a brief interview. The applicants addressed the Board in the following order:

1. Ricardo Ortega (*Via Teleconference.*)
2. Ruby Rivera (*Via Teleconference.*)
3. Julián Del Real-Calleros
4. Nancy Navarro Serratos (*Via Teleconference.*)
5. Natalia Flores
6. Andrew Calloway
7. Axel Perez

Applicant interview responses attached herewith.

10.B. Public Comment (*Public comments are attached herewith.*)

The following individuals submitted their public comments via live teleconference:

Alma-Delia Renteria
Brenda Rivera
Michelle Benavides
Gloria Hernandez
Marisela Santana

The following individuals submitted their public comments electronically. The public comments were read into record by Dr. Brian Lucas, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, and Dr. Shawna Dinkins, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services.

Amanda C. Gutierrez	Daisy Alfaro, Ph.D.	Henry Perez
Lucy Herrera	Erika Reyes	Custodio Gomez
Jenny Penate	Hector Mercado	Abel Pinedo
Monica Amezcua	Marlene Arazo	Gloria D. Martinez
Fernando Hernandez	Patricia Gonzalez	Perla Rivera
Carmina Calderon	Sharon Yeargain	Elva Diaz
Ana Patino	Kimberly Gonzalez	Sabrina Bow Ed.D.
Jacqueline Morales	Ariana Sainz	Jacqueline Macias
Cristal Esparza	Laura Zavala	Cindy Donis
Kasandra Cordova	Gloria Gutierrez	
Lizbeth Rivas	Wendy Ortega	

Mr. Morales requested a point of privilege to allow the Board members time to review their notes from the public comments received. The Board reconvened at 8:03 p.m.

11. ACTION ITEMS

11.A. Board Deliberation and Appointment of School Board Member to Fill the Existing Vacancy on the Lynwood Unified School District Board of Education Effective April 8, 2021, or Such Later Date of Administration of the Oath of Office, through December 2022

Mr. Morales asked to speak about recent events occurring during the prior two days to this Board meeting, including many worrisome telephone calls he received. Mr. Morales wanted to remind the Board and community members in attendance that the appointment of the new School Board Member is an appointment, not a vote for candidates. Mr. Morales commended the applicants and highlighted his desire and support for their future runs for office.

Mr. Morales motioned to appoint Julián Del Real-Calleros; Seconded by Dr. Castro.

Mr. Hardie added for clarification that there should have been a separate deliberation among the Board before motioning to appoint an applicant. Mr. Hardie suggested looking at the current Board members and evaluating gaps the potential applicants could fill. He reminded the Board of the circumstances regarding former Vice President Alma-Delia Renteria's resignation, and asked the Board about the community's needs from the Board. He does not support putting money or politics over students and identified the Board's obligation for a moral mandate to put students first. He thanked all of the applicants and applauded their efforts.

Dr. Castro thanked the applicants for their drive, their passion for education, and for being a voice in our community. The decision of the Board is centered on the priority of the children we serve. The Board's decision is integral to the work we have and will face in the coming months, particularly regarding the reopening of our schools.

Mrs. Lopez emphasized her community involvement in Lynwood for the past forty-three years, recognizing the efforts and dedication of all of the applicants. Mrs. Lopez acknowledged the intelligence and desire of the applicants, but wanted to focus on the experience they have in the educational system. Some calls she received in support of applicants were very concerning, but ultimately the Board needs to make the best decision on behalf of the students.

Mr. Morales explained his reasoning behind his vote. He applauded Mr. Del Real-Calleros' community service and work within the community. Mr. Morales noted that each Board Member plays an important role on the Board, and communication between Members is key. His goal is to maintain continuity on the Board, to not always start over, but to continue the great work being done over the past decade.

Individual votes by roll call:

Mrs. Lopez - Yes

Mr. Morales - Yes

Mr. Hardie - No

Dr. Castro - Yes

This item passed with 3-1 votes.

11.B. Administration of the Oath of Office for Newly-Appointed Governing Board Member

The Board announced the appointment of Julián Del Real-Calleros.

Julián Del Real-Calleros addressed the Board, thanking them for the opportunity to serve the community in a greater capacity. He recognized those who supported him in the public comments as well as the other applicants for the vacant Board seat. He hopes to work together with all members of the community as a Board Member.

Dr. Castro asked for a point of privilege to address Mr. Del Real-Calleros, welcoming him to the Board. She recognized his passion and dedication to the community along with his strong leadership and collaboration skills.

Mr. Morales applauded Mr. Del Real-Calleros' hard work and commitment to the Lynwood community, his dedication to volunteering, and his work as a unionized educator. He welcomed him to the Board.

Mr. Hardie welcomed Mr. Del Real-Calleros to the Board and acknowledged while he did not vote for Mr. Del Real-Calleros, he still looks forward to working with him and embracing him as a new Board Member.

Mrs. Lopez welcomed Mr. Del Real-Calleros to the Board. She acknowledged the difficult decision it was to appoint him out of all of the great applicants and expressed her recognition of his above and beyond qualifications as a reason for his appointment.

Mrs. Lopez facilitated the swearing-in ceremony for Mr. Del Real-Calleros. Mr. Del Real-Calleros will serve on the Board of Education until December 2022.

Mr. Del Real-Calleros joined the Board at the dais.

Mr. Del Real-Calleros thanked the Members of the Board for the opportunity to join them in service to Lynwood Unified School District and looks forward to working as a team.

11.C. Election of Officers of the Board of Education from April 2021 to December 2021

Vice President – Mr. Alfonso Morales, Esq.

Motion by Mrs. Lopez; Seconded by Dr. Castro.

Item passed with 5-0 votes.

Clerk – Dr. Alma Carina Castro

Motion by Mr. Morales; Seconded by Mrs. Lopez.

Item passed with 5-0 votes.

Secretary to the Board - Superintendent: Gudiel R. Crosthwaite, Ph.D.

Motion by Mr. Morales; Seconded by Dr. Castro.

Item passed with 5-0 votes.

12. CONSENT AGENDA

All items on the Consent Agenda, which are not debatable and which require a unanimous vote for passage, will be approved with one motion. Any member of the Board, the Superintendent, or the public, may request an item to be removed from this section and placed in the regular order of business following the approval of the Consent Agenda.

Dr. Castro pulled Agenda Item No. 12.B.1 for a separate vote.

Mr. Morales motioned to approve the Consent Agenda, with the exception of Agenda Item No. 12.B.1;
Seconded by Mr. Hardie.

The Consent Agenda item passed with 5-0 votes.

12.A. HUMAN RESOURCES - CLASSIFIED

- 12.A.1. Request Approval of Classified Personnel Report: Personnel Assignments, Employment, Leaves, and Separations

ITEM PULLED FOR SEPARATE VOTE

12.B. BUSINESS SERVICES

- 12.B.1. Request Approval to Enter into a Service Agreement with Enviser Co. for the Preventative HVAC Maintenance Program beginning April 15, 2021 through April 14, 2022

Dr. Castro asked Superintendent Crosthwaite about the potential of the District to grow its capacity for the following years.

Superintendent Crosthwaite confirmed that the agreement with Enviser Co. includes implementation of updated Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value 13 (MERV 13) filters recommended for use by the Center of Disease Control (CDC) and the California Department of Education (CDE), as well as further training of our HVAC Maintenance team and building their capacity to be self-sustaining past the one-year contract. The District is in the process of hiring additional HVAC technicians to address future sustainability. Superintendent Crosthwaite highlighted the importance of this item to the Lynwood Teachers Association in their negotiations for returning students back into the classroom.

Mrs. Lopez concurred and reiterated the importance of having this item passed before full school re-openings occur.

Mr. Morales asked Superintendent Crosthwaite to clarify that this agreement falls in place with the Board's desire to continue working with Service Employees International Union (SEIU) and Lynwood Unified School District employees rather than continuing to outsource contracts; this item will allow Lynwood Unified School District to keep jobs within the District.

Superintendent Crosthwaite confirmed that Mr. Morales was correct.

Motion by Mr. Morales; Seconded by Mr. Hardie.

This agenda item passed with 5-0 votes.

13. REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

- 6.A. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated/Potential Litigation – Pursuant to GC § 54956.9(d)(4)
 - 6.A.1. Initiation of Litigation Pursuant to Paragraph (4) of Subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9: One (1) Case
 - ***The Board received information only. No final action was taken.***

6.B. Public Employment/Public Employee Performance Evaluation/Public Employee Discipline
Dismissal/Release/Appointment (Pursuant to GC § 54957)

6.B.1. Superintendent's Evaluation

- *The Board received information only. No final action was taken.*

14. ADJOURNMENT

President Lopez took a point of privilege before closing. Mrs. Lopez hopes the Board will continue to work together and do the best they can for the organization of Lynwood Unified School District. She highlighted overcoming differences, moving forward, and working for the benefit of our students. Mrs. Lopez asked the Board to remain on the same page and united as a family to continue working hard for the sake of our students and our community.

Motion to adjourn by Dr. Castro; Seconded by Mr. Del Real-Calleros.

President Lopez adjourned the meeting at 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gudiel R. Crosthwaite, Ph.D.
Superintendent & Secretary to the Board

Interview Responses

ZOOM - Ricardo Ortega

In three minutes, please introduce yourself, state your address, tell us why you are interested in serving as a Board Member for Lynwood Unified School District, and how you plan on making an impact.

Thank you. My name is Ricardo Ortega. I currently live in the City of Lynwood. I decided to apply for this position because I have served in many capacities in the District. The District has provided me with a lot of opportunities to grow as an individual and to be a community leader here in Lynwood, but also across the State. I have worked on policy and legislation and have been the youngest appointed official in the City of Huntington Park for the Civil Service Commission, where I handled all personnel matters for about a year. I have done a lot of community advocacy for foster, probation, and unsheltered youth, and LCAP. I hope to provide an impact to our students during this pandemic. I wish to support the Board and the different stakeholders in our community that make up our District.

1. In the last five years, what contributions have you made to the Lynwood community?

During the past year, I have served as a Representative on the Young Senators Program for former State Senator Ricardo Lara. I was the only student representing Lynwood Unified. After me, I recruited other students from Firebaugh and Lynwood High to make sure our community was represented. I have also done a lot of community forums: one for the School Board, and one for the City Council, the past two elections since I've moved here. I have focused on informing our community, bringing awareness to the different politics going on and ensuring the community is informed on the decisions being made that will impact them.

2. How many School Board meetings have you attended in the last two years, and what issue brought you to attend the Board meetings?

Lynwood Unified was the first District meeting I attended. The first issue I brought to the Board was regarding Lindbergh Elementary School. I researched and found out that Lindbergh was awarded an award by Nazis. I wanted to make sure our District was aware of it and provided sensitivity towards that. That was my first meeting, and so far I have attended about five or six meetings. I try my best to keep my comments very positive. I don't really like to bring a lot of negativity to these Board meetings; I like to bring solutions to them if I am going to bring something that may cause controversy.

3. What do you believe is the role of a School Board Member?

I believe a School Board Member plays a very crucial role in our educational system. This position and this Board work as a unit, making sure our graduating students are equipped to handle challenges of tomorrow. Our Board Members are our leaders, and our focus is to make sure our educational system meets the standards and the needs of our students. As a community with low income, our students face lots of disadvantages; this shouldn't put them behind. Our focus should be how to create policy and opportunities for our students to be successful.

4. What do you hope to accomplish as a School Board Member?

I hope to accomplish a lot of things, but my main goal is to make sure our Board is more accessible and ensure our community is informed of decisions we are making. We can create town halls in-person. Ensuring that our students are well informed, providing more support to our staff and ensuring they have the accessibility to come

to the Board and ask questions where we would support them as the frontier. The main focus of our Board should be ensuring our students, families, and staff have the support and the tools to be successful. My hope is to create an atmosphere and environment where they can ask for support when needed and make sure our first decisions are made for our students.

Zoom - Ruby Rivera

In three minutes, please introduce yourself, state your address, tell us why you are interested in serving as a Board Member for Lynwood Unified School District, and how you plan on making an impact.

Thank you, Board Members, for the opportunity to address you as a candidate for appointment for the vacant Board seat. My name is Ruby Rivera and I am a lifelong Lynwood resident, a product of Lynwood schools, and a passionate advocate for youth and community empowerment and development. I have over ten years of experience in youth development, community organizing, program development, organizational management, and policy advocacy. My work has focused on building the capacity of youth and community members to develop positive solutions to community issues and advocate to decision makers to bring them to fruition. That work has led me to understanding the needs of academic youth at highest risk of push out and allowed me the opportunity to develop programs to address their needs.

During this time, I have learned that academic achievement goes beyond the student and the classroom. It requires attention to the entire educational ecosystem, including parents, teachers, staff, community facilities, mental health, housing, and the environment. Academic success requires holistic investment in youth, their schools, and their community. I have spent my professional career building a strong network across community-based organizations, academic institutions, and elected officials at the state, LA City, and LA County levels. My day job is serving the East Los Angeles and Boyle Heights communities, but always at my core has been the dream of being able to come back and serve my home, Lynwood. As an organizer, I bring in a unique perspective as to how the District can systematically address so many of the inequities it faces. I have dedicated my life to identifying solutions to community problems that empower those most impacted and include them in the problem-solving process. I have always ensured that equity and justice are the foundations to these solutions. I am committed to connecting with people and serving as a bridge between decisions made within the School Board and those most impacted by them.

Over the past year, the School Board has dealt with unprecedented challenges, and although we are slowly seeing the light at the end of that tunnel, the obstacles that will come with reopening and a just recovery post-pandemic require innovation and creative problem solving. I bring a different perspective grounded in root-cause solutions, innovation, and centering those most impacted. My education and experience have equipped me with the ability to make those tough decisions and understand how to bring about effective policies.

The public comment you will hear soon further demonstrates the impact I have had on young people and the community as a whole. The Lynwood education currently experienced by niece and nephew as students at Rosa Parks Elementary School and carried out by my sister at my alma mater, Lynwood High, has gone through a lot of positive changes since the time I was at school. I want to work alongside the current School Board Members to continue to help them to progress and succeed. Thank you.

1. In the last five years, what contributions have you made to the Lynwood community?

In the last five years, although my contributions have not been seen at the forefront, I have been an advocate in broader efforts. I have dedicated my life to being an organizer, and all of my time has been spent organizing in Boyle Heights and the East Side. However, every opportunity I get, especially within county advocacy, I brought up issues and tried to connect resources, funding, policy opportunities to ensure Lynwood is included. In addition to that, I have served on a much smaller scale in mentoring and homework help and support to neighbors, family members, as well as my own niece and nephew, who are currently Lynwood students.

2. How many School Board meetings have you attended in the last two years, and what issue brought you to attend the Board meetings?

The job that I had for many years with youth organizing, had taken up my evenings with programming, counseling, and a very tight work schedule where I was getting off at 8:00pm. In person access to School Board meetings was not an option for me. The pandemic and a change in appointment have created an opportunity for me to come back and get more involved. Since the beginning of the pandemic, I was able to get more involved in City Council. For the School Board specifically, I was able to attend two Board meetings. What brought me to the Board meetings was wanting to know more about understanding what the plan is post-pandemic and how I can connect the resources I have been connecting to in LA County and LA City to what the needs are here in my own community. I appreciate the new job I have because it affords me the ability to continue to participate with Lynwood School Board.

3. What do you believe is the role of a School Board Member?

I believe a School Board Member is here to make decisions that support academic success. Academic success goes beyond school, it goes beyond students being able to get their homework in on time. Learning is holistic and requires policies and decisions and solutions that impact them as a whole. The benefit we have of being a small School Board is being accessible to students, staff members, and community members, especially after the traumas of this pandemic. We need to make ourselves available, to be able to listen to them and make solutions that incorporate them in that process. We should be a bridge between the community, the issues that they face, and the solutions that we make to bring about that academic success.

4. What do you hope to accomplish as a School Board Member?

The Lynwood education I've seen through my niece and nephew who are students, my sister who is a teacher, and some of the youth that I've engaged with throughout the years, shows that Lynwood has gone through a lot of positive change since the time I was in school. I want to work alongside the current School Board Members to continue to help Lynwood progress and succeed. I am the embodiment of a Lynwood scholar and leader, and I want to be appointed to this empty School Board seat and bring the leadership pipeline that began for me at Lynwood High School ASB leadership classroom full circle. If granted the opportunity, I would like to give all that I've learned, all the networks I have built, the connections and resources that I have access to, and bring that back to be in service to my community.

In-Person - Julián Del Real-Calleros

In three minutes, please introduce yourself, state your address, tell us why you are interested in serving as a Board Member for Lynwood Unified School District, and how you plan on making an impact.

Good evening Board Members. My name is Julián Del Real-Calleros and I live on Virginia Avenue. Thank you for inviting me here today to be part of the process to appoint a new member to fill the vacancy left by former Board Member Alma-Delia Renteria. By now, you have read my application, resume, and letter of intent. You've learned about my education, my work history, and my contributions to this community. But allow me to tell you more about what makes me more than well qualified for this position.

I am a young, passionate teacher and son of Mexican immigrants. I have had quite an educational odyssey which I have shared with students and parents I have worked with in the last seven years that I have been in the educational field. In my youth, I wasn't the brightest student. I believed that I was academically left behind because I was sent to Vista High School, my alma mater. At first, I did not want to be there, and I had a misconception of Vista High School. I recognize today that being sent to Vista High School was the greatest thing that ever happened to me in my life. It redirected my educational course.

From Vista High School, I went on to Cerritos College and went on to receive my Bachelor's degree from one of the most world-renowned universities, UC Davis. I just recently received my teaching credential from Cal State Dominguez Hills, one of the best colleges producing the best teachers throughout the southland. Today, I am a full-time teacher with Los Angeles Unified School District. Working in the classroom to empower students, I encourage them to use their voices. I embarked on a mission to help students who underestimate themselves; I tell students that Vista is not the end of the road, but just a detour to success. If appointed to this seat, I will not only fill the void left by Ms. Renteria, but I will bring my experience along with my leadership into the community.

1. In the last five years, what contributions have you made to the Lynwood community?

In the last few years, my contributions here in the Lynwood community, more significantly, have been coaching baseball here at Lynwood Park. I joined there because my cousins and siblings came to me with a flyer saying there is a baseball program here. I used to play. I went on and heard that they needed coaches, so I stepped up. And that first season I coached three teams. It was quite a mission, but I was able to carry it. I also worked here as a substitute and during that time, I did more than just come in, check in, cover the class, and then leave. I often stayed, watching the kids play their competitive sports here at Lynwood. But aside from volunteering here at the park, I've also served in Public Safety and I currently serve in the Planning Commission, where I have been knocking on doors to get people to get vaccinated.

2. How many School Board meetings have you attended in the last two years, and what issue brought you to attend the Board meetings?

It's quite hard to count how many board meetings I've attended in the last two years. I would say for a short time it was quite hard to follow because baseball games and the meetings conflicted. But since the pandemic, especially because the meetings have been held online, streaming and Zoom, it's been easier to follow.

From the items that have recently been discussed by the Board, one of the ones that have caught my attention was a resolution to have a new grading system to encourage teachers to pursue new grading practices sort of like mastery grading. It was to eliminate the concept of zero grading. It was interesting because as a teacher, I am being encouraged to do that. Frankly, I practice it myself.

3. What do you believe is the role of a School Board Member?

The role of the School Board Member is to represent both policies that will affect their community academically. Basically, promote and enforce the curriculum, so long that it falls within the State's. Also, the School Board Members put first the welfare of their students, which is the most crucial task right now due COVID-19. Even ourselves right here in Lynwood due to an incident at one of our campuses. But the primary role of the Board Member is: encourage education within families, serve the community in educational capacity, have a competitive curriculum for its community members, and to work on that curriculum and support it with the State.

4. What do you hope to accomplish as a School Board Member?

What I wish to accomplish as a Board Member, primarily, right now, because I will be filling in a vacancy of one and a half years, is, right now, focus on reopening our schools safely. Second is to ensure that Lynwood High School can be reinstated to its previous safe environment for our students. And not to really draw much of a laundry list of what I would wish to do, because I am filling a one year and a half seat and another four years is not guaranteed. So right now, it is opening our schools safely, Lynwood High, and one of the interesting things I have working with LAUSD, and having worked with two other school districts, is to bring programs that will serve our students. Something that I had in mind during this election that I previously ran is have a program called BIC, which is an acronym for Breakfast in Class, because many students come to school hungry. That is a program that I wish to accomplish.

Zoom - Nancy Nohely Navarro Serratos

In three minutes, please introduce yourself, state your address, tell us why you are interested in serving as a Board Member for Lynwood Unified School District, and how you plan on making an impact.

Thank you for this opportunity. I am Nancy Navarro Serratos. I live on Imperial Highway. I am not a teacher. I am not an administrator, or have decades of experience being in scenarios with a lot of children involved, but I am a student of Political Sciences and I know what it's like to feel doubted, to feel scared, to feel like you're not good enough. I'm not saying this for sympathies; I am saying it because many students in this District have felt that way long before the pandemic. These are unprecedented times; they are filled with polarizations, uncertainty, and continuous distress. The pandemic highlighted the inequities of this community, and now more than ever, we need to stand united. The current students of Lynwood Unified are facing struggles that no other class before them has in recent years. Depending on who you ask, online learning has either been a blessing or a curse. Although classroom re-openings have been made, the input of students, teachers, and parents needs to continually be taken to ensure their safety. Because yes, teachers and parents do carry some of the burden, but it is ultimately the students who will face every single consequence firsthand from every action made by the Board. And who speaks for them? Who speaks for the people who feel like they've been silenced, who feel like they don't have a voice loud enough to get their opinions heard?

If appointed to this position, I want to act as a liaison between these people and the Board because I know what it is like to be silenced. I know what it is like to be told, "Take a seat, stand down, and let the people who know what they're doing take charge." I want to advocate for the safety and the success of the students--and not just those on campus-- also those who will continue in online learning because their parents don't feel comfortable to send them back to campus. I know I don't have a lot of experience, but I am someone who is not afraid to take risks. I am adaptable, I am flexible, and my experience has made me someone who isn't afraid to stand up in the face of injustice. That is about me. Thank you.

1. In the last five years, what contributions have you made to the Lynwood community?

In the past five years, I used to be a chaperone for Washington Elementary because my brother was in attendance there. I was chaperoning there from his third to his sixth grade; then my job did not allow me to continue opportunities with that. I also attended open houses. I've contributed with the surveys that get sent out.

2. How many School Board meetings have you attended in the last two years, and what issue brought you to attend the Board meetings?

Prior to the pandemic, I didn't really have the time to attend meetings due to my job, working various times every single day. But since the pandemic, I've attended approximately five or six. What has driven me to them has been the topic of reopening. I do have a brother at Lynwood High right now. He does have underlying health conditions and can't take the vaccine because he is not old enough. So one of the priorities for me has been to become informed on what's going to happen, how do we ensure the safety of all students, not just the older ones (sixteen-, seventeen-year-olds who can get the Pfizer vaccine), but the thirteen-year-olds, twelve-year-olds, and those with underlying conditions. How can we ensure that they will be absolutely safe when they're not vaccinated? So that is one of the things that drew me to the meetings. Also, the transition from Lynwood High to the Lynwood Middle School campus, because for me, that feels completely unacceptable that this issue went on for so long with it being undetected.

3. What do you believe is the role of a School Board Member?

I believe the role of a School Board Member is to act as a liaison for the community. Since we are someone that has the opportunity to change the way things work, the School Board Member needs to listen, they need to be attentive, and they need to take input from everyone, not just the people that say the things we want to hear. I believe that it is the mission of a School Board Member to ensure the success of all students and to provide them with alternative paths for their future. There is no one-size-fits-all plan. Every student has their own route to success and we must help them discover that path. It isn't the end of the world if you don't go to college right after high school. It isn't the end of the world if you have to drop out of college. There are other alternatives and it is our duty to ensure that they are aware of these, whether it is vocational school or community college.

4. What do you hope to accomplish as a School Board Member?

As a School Board Member, I hope to make an impact. I want to be a future politician and I want to give back to the community. I feel like, as a School Board Member, I'll have the opportunity to make a difference. To not just change the way things are for my brother, like make his education more accessible, give him more resources, but to also change it for future generations. Because if children really are the future as the saying says, then actions need to be taken. I hope to accomplish a program that enables some social aspect to students. I am at Long Beach City College currently and I'm a mentor for LB Blast. That connected me to students, where I mentor them for an hour, two times a week and I just help them with their homework or just listen to them because children need to know that they have someone there, who will speak for them, who they can rely on.

In-Person - Natalia Flores

In three minutes, please introduce yourself, state your address, tell us why you are interested in serving as a Board Member for Lynwood Unified School District, and how you plan on making an impact.

Good evening Board Members. I'm Natalia. I have a long history with Lynwood and the community. As a child, my parents came to this country for a better education for their children. When I was two, we moved to Lynwood, and over forty years later, I am still a resident of Lynwood; I am a proud homeowner here. I am mostly proud of being a Lynwood alum. I went to Lincoln Elementary, to Hosler Middle School, and I graduated from Lynwood High School. I then went to UCLA, got my Bachelors in Psychology and Chicano/a Studies, and then went to Cal State Long Beach and got my Masters in Education. It was through my experience as a student here in this District that pushed me to reach my college and career goals. And today, I have nieces that have graduated from Lynwood, currently my nephew is a junior at Lynwood High School and I actually serve right now in the Lynwood Partners Educational Foundation. This is part of what I want to do: create an impact. Lynwood, the District and the community, gave a lot to me. I am who I am because of that now, and I wanted to be able to be a part of creating, with the Board, opportunities and experiences that will give the same to our students what I had so they may reach their career goals and college goals.

My impact will come from the work that I currently do. I am the Deputy Chief of Program and Operations for a non-profit that serves 170,000 students in California. We provide educational programming to early learning, K-12, and first-year college students. I work with over forty districts throughout California, community partners, and public and private entities that give me the experience of impact, and I would like to share this impact with the Board Members and with the District--to really impact the students we serve here in Lynwood.

I will end with saying that I am committed to this work. This work is hard; it's not easy work. I'm sure all the Board Members and the staff at the District would agree. I am ready and committed to do this work for the students of Lynwood.

1. In the last five years, what contributions have you made to the Lynwood community?

I am a Board Member for the Lynwood Partners Educational Foundation. The Foundation started in 2015, really driven by a lot of the Board Members here. I joined in 2016, and since then, we have been working on (and we still have a lot of work to do), finding resources for students in Lynwood. Last year, we provided about \$35,000 in scholarship funds to graduates of Lynwood. The goal was to provide them with college access. Since then, we have the magic show that I invite you to all attend. It's fundraising, so I also invite you to buy some wine because it also contributes funding to our students. We've had the comedy show. It's all to raise funds to be able to support the District with the gaps. It's philanthropy: how can we meet the gap that a public District is not able to support? That has been my work, and that continues to be my work. I serve as the Vice President this year, and we look forward to having more events, more fundraisers, and continue to grow to meet the needs of students in Lynwood Unified.

2. How many School Board meetings have you attended in the last two years, and what issue brought you to attend the Board meetings?

I would say I have attended between eight to ten meetings. In-person was a lot harder for me. I work in Santa Ana, which is not the closest, but when I did come to those Board meetings, my nieces were getting honored and recognition for their sports or the clubs that they participated in. Most recently, I've seen more of the Board meetings through YouTube, which is way more accessible. I really enjoy that and think it really increased my

involvement. The main reason I attended was to know how we were going to respond to the COVID pandemic. I wanted to see how I could support my nephew, a junior here, as he was going through it.

3. What do you believe is the role of a School Board Member?

It's a big responsibility. As Board Members, the advocacy of students and community is the most important. The Board needs to be able to advocate for what they need and have knowledge of policies, regulations, and how we use those to best provide the services for our students.

It is our responsibility to provide a good education and be financially responsible at the same time. We need to set visions and goals: you can't reach goals if you don't set them. Ultimately, we need accountability for each other, accountability of the leaders of the District, and what we are setting for the students to reach. We must always work in community--the Board is not something that stands on its own, but is in partnership with those it is here to serve. We must advocate for the best education that students can have by supporting the schools and the administrations.

4. What do you hope to accomplish as a School Board Member?

That's a great question! There's a lot of work to do. We serve students of color. I'm a woman of color. We have already a lot of challenges that COVID has exposed recently, so they are more in our face, although they were always there. So how do we create equity for our kids? Our kids are already at a disadvantage. How do we come together and get what's out there and provide an education that will really provide the opportunities for our students of color to be successful? How do we move away from systems or practices that have continued that oppression? Whether we knew we were doing it or not, they were there.

So, with my experience and working in education through a non-profit and being exposed to so many districts and so many practices out there, I will ask, how do we build the best education system and experience for our kids? Because they deserve it and we know what the benefit brings. We already know we are at a disadvantage, so it's really the equity involving all of that is what I hope to bring to impact the students in Lynwood.

In-Person - Andrew Calloway

In three minutes, please introduce yourself, state your address, tell us why you are interested in serving as a Board Member for Lynwood Unified School District, and how you plan on making an impact.

Good evening Lynwood Unified School District. My name is Andrew Calloway and I live in Lynwood, California. I am also a product of Lynwood Unified School District. I grew up and went to Lindbergh Elementary, then to Lynwood Middle School and I graduated from Firebaugh High School class of 2014. During my time as a long-term sub at Washington Elementary, I am helping with the re-openings and in-person class sessions. I have a kindergarten/first grade class combo. They're doing such an amazing job at Washington with the COVID-19 protocols and following all procedures. It makes me so happy that some type of normal is coming back and it's great to be back in the classroom after so long. It's been a difficult year for a lot of us.

I was also a long-term sub at Hosler Middle School for two-three months and I enjoyed my time there. Even my students, on my last day, were very emotional because I got close to them. One important thing for me is to build a community environment. It reminds me of a student and their mother who wrote a Christmas card for me, saying, "Best wishes on your Masters and everything [I'm applying to grad school right now], and it's sad

to know you're leaving. You have such a beautiful soul, and I enjoyed being a part of the class with you." That shows not just the resilience of Lynwood Unified School District, especially during the time of COVID-19, but

also, that the strength and the community never goes away. Humanity is important during these stressful times of the pandemic. I've enjoyed my time here as a long-term sub for two and a half years. I always tell students before I leave a long-term assignment, "You're already the best at something, and it is the best at being you. There's nobody else in this world like you." I tell them, "you're going to make an everlasting contribution to society."

1. In the last five years, what contributions have you made to the Lynwood community?

I've been back here for two-three years. I've worked in many non-profit organizations here in Lynwood, including the Lynwood Alumni Association. I am a freelance writer and researcher for the Lynwood Partners Educational Foundation. I kickstarted it with John and Elsa, creating stories and narratives with teachers. I go back to being a teacher and part of what defines Lynwood Unified School District. I chaperoned for one of the first Lynwood Alumni Association's East Coast trips to visit the schools and universities there.

2. How many School Board meetings have you attended in the last two years, and what issue brought you to attend the Board meetings?

I've attended one previous School Board meeting about a year ago and the issue that brought me to attend was on Budgeting and Funding, which always catches my interest. These issues impact teachers and students as well. It is a hardship we have faced since the 2008-2009 recession with limiting funding for materials.

3. What do you believe is the role of a School Board Member?

Anything I do is the three Cs: community building, communication, and cooperation. The role of a School Board Member is to bridge the gap as a liaison between the parents and students, teachers, and the community. We need to communicate between those three branches, attend meetings and events, and survey those in our community for how we can improve.

4. What do you hope to accomplish as a School Board Member?

I hope to be a community liaison, expanding communication and outreach. I'd like to create an alumni outreach department in conjunction between both the Lynwood Alumni Association and the Lynwood Partners Educational Foundation. I'd like to bring in resources and connect with local organizations and businesses and create internships and job opportunities for our high school students and alumni. It is my goal to be a team supporter at events, a team player at Board meetings and community service events, and just being present.

In-Person - Axel Perez

In three minutes, please introduce yourself, state your address, tell us why you are interested in serving as a Board Member for Lynwood Unified School District, and how you plan on making an impact.

Thank you for having me. My name is Axel Perez and I am a Lynwood resident. One of the reasons I am motivated to join the Lynwood School Board is because our young kids have so much potential. I think one of the things we should be focusing on is bringing in new, youthful leadership. I have various experience with working across the District and the State, and I see so much purpose within individuals.

I have participated in various events for our District's community, including those events which help low income families around Thanksgiving and Christmas, and those that serve people with special needs. This has taught me that leadership is not only a title or experience, but having passion and purpose to be able to serve your community.

The Board holds an important role in our education, and we need to think not only about the present, but about the future. Every decision we make will impact our students in the long run--how many of our students will graduate, or will go on to college? These decisions are very important for me.

1. In the last five years, what contributions have you made to the Lynwood community?

In the last five years, contributions I've made to the Lynwood community include my current service as a Royal Court Member for the City of Lynwood. This was a scholarship opportunity presented to high school seniors that not only helps with college, but gave me insight with our kids as I mentored them and attended City events with them prior to the pandemic.

I am also a volunteer at Mark Twain Elementary School. I've helped run two completely free activities for the whole school at Mark Twain: two rallies on anti-bullying in the month of October.

2. How many School Board meetings have you attended in the last two years, and what issue brought you to attend the Board meetings?

I've attended every School Board meeting for the last two years. I attended not only as a member of student leadership at Firebaugh High School, but because I wanted to know more about where we get and distribute our funds and what current events are happening within our District. In attending every meeting, I've been able to see and learn about what students do not typically get to participate in. Everything I've seen at the Board meetings has shown me how we are working together to create projects and programs while bettering the education for our students. I've gained knowledge about the decision process and passing board items such as the changes to the auditorium at Lynwood Middle School.

3. What do you believe is the role of a School Board Member?

I believe that a School Board Member is a bridge to the community. They are people that our students look up to and our teachers count on to help best serve the students. It is truly about the passion for the purpose: our students' education. School Board members make sure our test scores are high but students are also getting resources they need. As School Board members, we need to hold ourselves accountable to the highest level so that we may best represent our City and its institutions, including our own School District.

4. What do you hope to accomplish as a School Board Member?

Something I am really passionate about and would love to accomplish is to bring in more character-building curriculum to our schools. This is curriculum that does not have to be bought, but can be made from our teachers and our leadership groups. We need to work on the climate and culture of our campuses. We need to delve deeper into our classroom instruction with anti-bullying. The Board Member position would be a great platform for me to implement that across the District. Small actions like this create a warm environment and send the message that "we are here together."

Public Comments via ZOOM

Alma-Delia Renteria

Ms. Renteria, former Board Member, announced the interviews are taking place due to her resignation from the Board of Education. She wanted to identify the reason for her resignation: a difference of opinion. Ms. Renteria, an educator and current elementary principal, expressed her support for Ruby Rivera, applicant for the vacant seat on the Board of Education. While acknowledging many applicants are new faces she hopes to see run for future public office, she praised Ruby as a strong advocate and community organizer who brings in a different skill set from the rest of the Board.

Ms. Renteria emphasized the impact of the Board's decision on hundreds of families and thousands of students in Lynwood. She addressed the importance of open interviews, which allow the community at large to see the strong leadership each of the applicants possess. She looked forward to further reopening plans and is proud of all the strides that Lynwood is making.

Brenda Rivera

Ms. Rivera expressed her support for Ruby Rivera, applicant for the vacant seat on the Board of Education. As a teacher, as a parent, and Lynwood resident, Ms. Rivera commends Ruby for seeking opportunities that are equitable for all and inclusive in every way possible. Ruby advocates and empowers communities across Los Angeles to ensure they have access to living and learning conditions that are just. Ms. Rivera asks the Board to allow Ruby to be a part of the Board, noting our community will benefit for years to come if she is appointed.

Michelle Benavides

Ms. Benavides expressed her support for Ruby Rivera, applicant for the vacant seat on the Board of Education. In the past, Ruby had supported Ms. Benavides, connected her with resources in her school and community, and provided her with the tools to reach academic and personal goals.

She testified to Ruby's hard work and dedication to supporting historically underserved communities. Ms. Benavides recognized Ruby's creation of long-term, meaningful change in communities that she connected back to Lynwood. With ten years of youth and organizing experience, Ruby understands the academic needs of youth and will continue networking and advocating for policies to benefit her community. Ms. Benavides stated Ruby is "beyond committed" to serve as a bridge between the School Board and those directly impacted by the Board's policies, and will put Lynwood first.

Gloria Hernandez

Ms. Hernandez, a proud Lynwood alum and educator, shared her support for Ruby Rivera, applicant for the vacant seat on the Board of Education. Ms. Hernandez highlighted Ruby's expertise in youth development that she will use to help students beyond the classroom so they may find success when returning to in-person instruction. Ruby is committed to equity and access, and is the best choice to help Lynwood schools continue to become an even better place to learn.

Marisela Santana

Ms. Santana, Mayor of the City of Lynwood, expressed her support for Julián Del Real-Calleros, applicant for the vacant seat on the Board of Education. She spotlighted Mr. Del Real-Calleros' campaign work in the November election and his seven-thousand votes. Ms. Santana believes Mr. Del Real-Calleros deserves the seat on the Board based on his commitment to and investment in this community. Ms. Santana accentuated his years of community service to Lynwood families and youth in his work volunteering, substituting for Lynwood

Unified School District, and as a City Commissioner. His actions and work in the community demonstrate his commitment and prove he has been and will continue to be a voice for our community and our students.

Electronic Public Comments

List of commenters from email communication:

Amanda C. Gutierrez	Daisy Alfaro, Ph.D.	Henry Perez
Lucy Herrera	Erika Reyes	Custodio Gomez
Jenny Penate	Hector Mercado	Abel Pinedo
Monica Amezcua	Marlene Arazo	Gloria D. Martinez
Fernando Hernandez	Patricia Gonzalez	Perla Rivera
Carmina Calderon	Sharon Yeargain	Elva Diaz
Ana Patino	Kimberly Gonzalez	Sabrina Bow Ed.D.
Jacqueline Morales	Ariana Sainz	Jacqueline Macias
Cristal Esparza	Laura Zavala	Cindy Donis
Kasandra Cordova	Gloria Gutierrez	
Lizbeth Rivas	Wendy Ortega	

Electronic Public Comment For Open Session

Amanda Gutierrez

Wed, Apr 7, 2021 at 3:05 PM

To: Boardcomm@mylUSD.org

Board Meeting Date: April 8, 2021

Agenda Item: 10.A Electronic Public Comment In Support of Applicant Ruby Rivera for Seat On The School Board

Hello, my name is Amanda C Gutierrez and I am currently 24 years old and work at Legacy LA as a program coordinator. I had the honor and privilege of knowing Ruby since I was 13 years old. She was my youth council facilitator which later grew into being my mentor and later becoming my manager though it's safe to say she's been much more than that, an overall role model. Through the youth council program Ruby was able to empower me to think critically and equipped me with the tools needed to become a youth leader in my community and create social change while also helping me with my academics and applying for college. Ruby was a huge support in helping my childhood friends and I create the Through Our Eyes Workshop that consist of a 3 hour session in which we led where youth ages 14-24 and LAPD CSP Officers from the Hollenbeck Division would sit at the table and build intentional common ground and collectively understand systemic oppression and find other alternatives to criminalization in our community like having the trauma informed approach. Ruby was also a key organizer in our Invest In Youth Campaign at Legacy LA and in general is huge advocate for me and the Ramona Gardens community, she truly understands the grass root needs of having a holistic investment in youth of color from their community to their schools. She would be a huge asset on the board and I support her, may you please consider my vote, thank you.

--

Amanda C. Gutierrez

She/Her/Hers

Public Comment for Open Session

Lucy Herrera

Wed, Apr 7, 2021 at 3:44 PM

To: boardcomm@mylUSD.org

1. Lucy Herrera
- 2.
- 3.

Board Meeting Date: **April 8, 2021**

My name is Lucy Herrera and I have worked in Youth Development for over 7 years. I am currently the Leadership Director at Legacy LA, a non profit youth center in Boyle Heights. I fully support Ruby Rivera's candidacy in running for the Lynwood Unified School District Board of Education. I have worked directly with Ruby and I fully believe that she will bring insight to the Lynwood Unified School District as a youth expert. Ruby has over 10 years of experience in youth and community organizing. She has experience in building the capacity of youth and community members to develop positive solutions to community issues and advocate to decision makers to bring them to fruition. She goes above and beyond to meet the needs of our youth. Ruby also has experience in understanding the academic needs of youth highest at risk of push out as evidenced by programs developed during her time at Legacy LA. Academic Success requires attention and holistic investment in youth, their schools, and their community. Ruby is also fully committed to her Lynwood community. Please take her candidacy into high consideration. Ruby uses a root cause solutions approach and ensures the most impacted youth are prioritized. If selected as a School Board Member she will impact youth from generations to come. Ruby Rivera has my full support.

Lucy Herrera

She/Her/Hers

Public Comment for Open Session

Jenny Penate

To: boardcomm@mylUSD.org

Wed, Apr 7, 2021 at 6:08 PM

Jenny Penate

Board Meeting Date: April 8, 2021

Agenda item 10.A. Presentation of applicants to the vacant seat on the school board: In support of Applicant Ruby Rivera

I am in full support of Ruby Rivera, she has first hand experience with working with diverse groups of people and has been an active advocate for students of all age groups and people. With Ruby Rivera having her own niece and nephew attending Lynwood Unified, and this being her own community, I believe she would be a great asset. She is young, with a fresh mind, her being active and having experience in multiple groups that provide change to the community is what we need. With Ruby having over 10 years of experience in working with the youth and community, along with her love for Lynwood and it being the city she grew up in, she knows first hand what is lacking, and I trust her to be the voice in bringing positive change, her experience makes her more than qualified for the position on the school board.

Sincerely,
Jenny Penate

Public Comment for Open Session

monica amezcua

To: boardcomm@mylUSD.org

Wed, Apr 7, 2021 at 6:58 PM

APRIL 8, 2021

Agenda Item/Topic: **Agenda item 10.A. Presentation of applicants to the vacant seat on the school board: In support of Applicant Ruby Rivera**

Monica Amezcua

I am a Lynwood resident and Lynwood alum. I support Ruby Rivera to become a board member. The reason why is because she has over 10 years of experience in youth and community organizer. Also she has experience in understanding the academic needs of youth highest at risk of push out as evidenced by programs developed during her time at Legacy LA. Academic Success requires attention and holistic investment in youth, their schools, and their community.

the most important reason she is a mujer chingona that will get shit done. She is not afraid to stand up for what is right and best for the community.

no more Tik Tok

thank you



Public Comment for open session

Fernando Hernandez
To: boardcomm@mylUSD.org

Wed, Apr 7, 2021 at 7:40 PM

April 8 2021
Fernando Hernandez

Agenda item 10.A. In support of Applicant Ruby Rivera.
Ruby is committed to advocate on behalf of students, parents, and workers of LUSD.

Public Comment for Open Session - Board Meeting Date Apr 8, 2021

Carmina Calderon

To: boardcomm@mylUSD.org

Wed, Apr 7, 2021 at 7:45 PM

1. Agenda item 10.A. Presentation of applicants to the vacant seat on the school board: In support of Applicant Ruby Rivera

Hello, my name is Carmina Calderon and I'm submitting a comment in support of Applicant Ruby Rivera for the Lynwood School Board. I've known and worked with Ruby for about 4-5 years now, and her work with youth and community has always been compelling. Ruby is highly committed to utilizing her skillset to support the school board and advocate on behalf of students, parents, and workers in the educational ecosystem of Lynwood Unified. Ruby's skills include youth, community, and labor organizing, program development, implementation, and evaluation, policy development and advocacy, curriculum development and facilitation, experience in providing therapeutic services and working with youth and adults in a mental health setting.

I hope that you consider Ruby for the vacant seat in the school board, as she has made very apparent that she is highly qualified and has the best interests of the youth that attend Lynwood's schools in mind.

Thank you,
Carmina Calderon

Comment on Support for vacant School Board position

Ana Patino

To: boardcomm@mylUSD.org

Wed, Apr 7, 2021 at 9:18 PM

Hello my name is Ana Patino my address is my phone number is . This comment is for the **Public Comment for Open Session on April 8, 2021 during the Agenda item 10.A. In full support of Applicant Ruby Rivera for the appointment of the vacant school board. She has much experience in youth and community organizing, program development among many other quality skills that will enrich the Lynwood school board.**

Thank you

Ruby for LUSD!

Jackie Morales

To: boardcomm@mylUSD.org

Wed, Apr 7, 2021 at 9:34 PM

Hello my name is Jacqueline Morales,

I am submitting public comments in support for Ruby Rivera for school board. My address is . My cell phone number is . I am submitting my public comments for the board meeting that will take place on April 8, 2021. The agenda Item/Topic: **Agenda item 10.A. Presentation of applicants to the vacant seat on the school board: In support of Applicant Ruby Rivera. I fully endorse and support Ruby Rivera because she** has experience with youth. She also has experience with listening to the needs of the community and creating action plans accordingly. She is the perfect candidate for this position.

Thank you,

Jacqueline Morales

Public Comment for Open Session

Cristal Esparza

Wed, Apr 7, 2021 at 10:16 PM

To: boardcomm@mylUSD.org

Name: Cristal Esparza

Address:

Phone Number:

Board Meeting Date: **April 8, 2021**

Subject: **Public Comment for Open Session**

Agenda Item/Topic: **Agenda item 10.A. Presentation of applicants to the vacant seat on the school board: In support of Applicant Ruby Rivera**

Ruby Rivera is the applicant that LUSD needs to fill the vacant seat on the school board. Ruby is committed not only because she understands the impact of district policies as an alumnus, not only because she has a niece and nephew who attend Rosa Park Elementary, not only because she has a sister who is a teacher at LHS, but it also's all of the above AND because she loves Lynwood and wants to continue seeing Lynwood Youth thrive.

One memorable experience where I have seen firsthand how Ruby has impacted her students was for a Student Art Auction. Ruby not only created an opportunity for students to own and show their craft but also helped them realize the potential they already harness. I have never received a most heartfelt message from a student. I felt their excitement and gratitude for bidding on their art piece. In that message, I noticed a student who felt empowered. It wasn't because I bid on their art and won it, it was because Ruby created an opportunity for a student to double down on themselves, to become vulnerable enough and find strength in their craft. Ruby provided an opportunity for the community to invest in youth through a student art auction.

Ruby has worked in the fields of youth development, educational supports for middle school, high school, and college students, anti-racism training programs, and has experience in advocacy at the state and local levels. With over a decade of experience in youth and community organizing.

LUSD needs a progressive board member like Ruby. If elected, She will, with the rest of the current board members, collaborate to bridge the educational ecosystem consisting of students, parents, teachers, staff, and decision-makers.

Cristal Esparza

Public Comment for Open Session

Kasandra Cordova

To: boardcomm@mylUSD.org

Wed, Apr 7, 2021 at 11:14 PM

Hello School Board Members,

1. Kasandra Cordova
- 2.
- 3.
4. Board Meeting Date: **April 8, 2021**
5. Agenda Item/Topic: **Agenda item 10.A. Presentation of applicants to the vacant seat on the school board: In support of Applicant Ruby Rivera**

I am a college student and have had the privilege of working alongside Ruby Rivera for two years as a youth organizer, and I know her skillset will be an absolute asset to Lynwood's School Board. She is an educational and mental health advocate with a special lens of a community organizer and uplifter. Ruby has mentored middle school, high school, college students, understands the needs of young folks, and brings a vision with holistic approaches to bridge school systems, community, and working families. Ruby's background in organizing, policy development, and implementation allows her to enact innovative solutions. A child's success relies heavily on their support system outside and within school walls, and Ruby understands that. She led the Invest in Youth Campaign for over 5 years and taught me the importance of keeping the movement intergenerational while always centering young people's needs and voices. Ruby knows how to build community, leads by example, and knows how to get things done; working with her energy and expertise is an honor. To add, Ruby Rivera was raised in Lynwood, continues to live in Lynwood, and anyone who knows her personally knows she loves her community. Our systems and institutions within society gain more and become inclusive to all when run by the community they're intended to serve, and Ruby embodies Lynwood. Not electing Ruby to this board will be a disservice to Lynwood students, the community, and working families.

I vouch and vote that Ruby Rivera is selected to fill the vacant seat on this school board.

Best,
Kasandra Cordova

Electronic Public comment for open session

Lizbeth Rivas

Wed, Apr 7, 2021 at 11:25 PM

To: "boardcomm@mylUSD.org" <boardcomm@mylUSD.org>

Name: Lizbeth Rivas

Address:

Phone Number:

Board Meeting Date: **April 8, 2021**

Subject: **Public Comment for Open Session**

Agenda Item/Topic: **Agenda item 10.A. Presentation of applicants to the vacant seat on the school board: In support of Applicant Ruby Rivera**

Electronic public message:

Hello, my name is Lizbeth Rivas. I am a resident of Lynwood CA. I am writing in support of Ruby Rivera to fill the seat on the Lynwood school board.

Ruby has over 10 years of experience in youth and community organizing. Focused on building the capacity of youth and community members to develop positive solutions to community issues and advocate to decision makers to bring them to fruition.

Our current reality needs creative problem solving and Ruby would bring a different perspective grounded in root cause solutions, innovation, and centering those most impacted. Ruby has over 10 years of experience & understands the academic needs of youth highest at risk of push out as evidenced by programs developed during her time at Legacy LA. Academic Success requires attention and holistic investment in youth, their schools, and their community. Ruby's candidacy is what we need for our Lynwood youth & schools. I wish someone with her values was around when I was a youth attending Lynwood schools. It's time for Lynwood to truly embrace social justice values and I strongly believe Ruby would bring this important perspective and innovation to the school board.

Thank you,
Lizbeth

--

Lizbeth Rivas, MSW (*she/her/hers*)

Public Comment for Open Session

Daisy D Alfaro

To: boardcomm@mylUSD.org

Thu, Apr 8, 2021 at 9:30 AM

Name: Daisy D. Alfaro, Ph.D.

Address:

Phone Number:

Board Meeting Date: **April 8, 2021**

Subject: **Public Comment for Open Session**

Agenda Item/Topic: **Agenda item 10.A. Presentation of applicants to the vacant seat on the school board: In support of Applicant Ruby Rivera**

Electronic public message:

Hello, my name is Dr. Daisy D. Alfaro. I was born and raised in the city of Lynwood, CA and remain involved and committed to ensuring access and opportunity to higher education for Lynwood students. I am writing in support of Ruby Rivera to fill the seat on the Lynwood school board.

Ruby has over 10 years of experience in youth and community organizing. Focused on building the capacity of youth and community members to develop positive solutions to community issues and advocate to decision makers to bring them to fruition.

Our current reality needs creative problem solving and Ruby would bring a different perspective grounded in root cause solutions, innovation, and centering those most impacted.

Ruby has over 10 years of experience & understands the academic needs of youth highest at risk of push out as evidenced by programs developed during her time at Legacy LA. Academic Success requires attention and holistic investment in youth, their schools, and their community. Ruby's candidacy is what we need for our Lynwood youth & schools. I wish someone with her values was around when I was a youth attending Lynwood schools. It's time for Lynwood to truly embrace social justice values and I strongly believe Ruby would bring this important perspective and innovation to the school board.

Thank you,
Daisy D. Alfaro, Ph.D.

Public Comment for Open Session - mtg 4/8/21

1 message

erika reyes

To: boardcomm@mylUSD.org

Thu, Apr 8, 2021 at 10:25 AM

Good morning,
Attached is my public comment to be read at tonight's meeting.

Thank you
Erika Reyes



Public Comment for R Rivera.docx

13K

Name: Erika Reyes

Address:

Number:

Board Meeting Date: 4/8/21

Subject: Public Comment for the Open Session

Agenda Item/Topic: Agenda Item 10.A, Presentation of applicant to the vacant seat on the school board:
In support of applicant, Ruby Rivera.

Comment:

Hello, my name is Erika Reyes. I reside at . I would like to show my support for applicant, Ruby Rivera's appointment to the Lynwood School Board. I have known Ruby for most of her life. She received a Lynwood education and she still has family receiving a Lynwood education. She easily had the skill, the experience, and the acumen to perform well as a member of the school board. She has ten-plus years working with youth and in community organizing. Through her involvement, she has honed and developed an understanding in what today's youth need to have success. I believe that Ruby's substantial acumen would be more than enough for her to be appointed. Still, it is Ruby's drive, her energy, and her commitment to advocate for the youth that impress me most. She pushes for her kids and fights for them to have all that they need to be just as successful as she is.

The Lynwood Unified School District Board of Education would be fortunate and enriched by the appointment of Ruby Rivera.

Public Comment for Open Session

Hector Mercado

Thu, Apr 8, 2021 at 10:42 AM

To: "boardcomm@mylUSD.org" <boardcomm@mylUSD.org>

Hector Mercado

Board mtg date; April 8, 2021

Agenda item/topic: Agenda item 10.A. Presentation of applicants to the vacant seat on the school board: in support of applicant Ruby Rivera

Ruby Rivera would be a great candidate because she is a strong and resilient woman who has changed the lives of many including myself. I've known Ruby Rivera since I was 8 and was always there to support me in what I desired. She taught me that the issues in my community are real and that we have to make a change. She has also taught me that my disability doesn't define me and that I am perfect the way I am. Ruby understood my accommodation while working with me, which not many can understand in the school system. She taught me to speak up for my accommodations and that I have every right to be entitled to my education. If it wasn't for Ruby's confidence in me I wouldn't have attended college to pursue an AA in political science.

Sincerely,
Hector Mercado

Electric Public Comment for Open Season

Marlene Arazo

Thu, Apr 8, 2021 at 11:58 AM

To: "boardcomm@mylUSD.org" <boardcomm@mylUSD.org>

Marlene J Arazo

Meeting date : April 8, 2021

Topic: Agenda item A.10. In support of applicant Ruby Rivera

Public comment for open season:

As a former member of Legacy LA and a cofounder for T.O.E I am here in support of an outstanding role model and mentor of mine, Ruby Rivera. As a young push out from Lincoln high school to a 4.0 graduate. I stand here today ALIVE and shackles free because of you ruby. I say this because there was a time that school was not on my agenda. I seen it as a waste of time, a space where I was unwanted, misunderstood and judged on a daily biases. As a struggling student coming from a low income household and surrounded with bad influences. You Ruby helped me find a better school that fit my needs and actually acknowledged me as a student by doing that ruby you gave me a vision and a dream something that is poor kids hardly get. She always took time out of her day to help me with my homework assignments. She even helped me find healthier snacks so that I can stay more focus in boring classes. In a world where everyone saw a low life you saw a ray of sunshine. Ruby thank you for not giving up on us youth! I stand here today ALIVE and shackles free because of you! Ruby this LSUD chair belongs to you!

--

Marlene Arazo

Youth Leader

Julian Del Real-Calleros for board member

Patty Gonzalez

Thu, Apr 8, 2021 at 12:07 PM

To: boardcomm@mylUSD.org

Good evening, my name is Patricia Gonzalez. I have been a Lynwood resident for 36 years and also a product of Lynwood Unified School District. I strongly believe Julian Del Real-Calleros would be a great asset to the school board. I have gotten to know him well through the city of Lynwood's baseball program. I am confident he will put the needs of the children of our community as priority. As a teacher and having been a foster parent, I think he brings various views to the table that would benefit our children greatly. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely
Patricia Gonzalez

Public Comment

Sharon Yeargain

Thu, Apr 8, 2021 at 12:09 PM

To: "boardcomm@mylUSD.org" <boardcomm@mylUSD.org>

Hello board members,

My name is Sharon Yeargain, a lifelong Lynwood resident, Lynwood school alumni from kindergarten to Lynwood High, and parent of a Lynwood alumnus too. I am sending this email to voice my support for my neighbor Julian Del Real-Calleros to be appointed to the school board. I've known Julian since he was a toddler, and he had always been involve with the community, beginning with helping his dad with Block Watch. I saw him grow from a boy to a man. He's very responsible young man who loves his community, and he will be an invaluable asset to the school board and city. Thank you for listening.

Sharon Yeargain

Public Comment for Open Session - 4/8/21 Special Meeting, Item 10.B.

kgonzalez

Thu, Apr 8, 2021 at 12:35 PM

To: "boardcomm@mylUSD.org" <boardcomm@mylUSD.org>

Good afternoon,

I would like the following read into the meeting record. Thank you.

Kimberly Gonzalez

April 8, 2021

Subject: Public Comment for Open Session

Item #10.B. - Public Comment regarding Vacant Seat

"Good evening Members of the School Board,

As a Lynwood resident of 37 years, with 3 children currently enrolled within LUSD, I would like to express my support for Julian Del Real Calleros for the appointment to the vacant seat on the Lynwood Unified School District Board of Education. As you are aware, Julian came in 4th overall following the general election held this past November. I believe that the Lynwood community has spoken and desire to see Julian join the Board of Education. Julian is actively involved with his community and those are the type of individuals that we need at the forefront making decisions that impact our Lynwood students.

I have had the distinct pleasure of getting to know Julian on both a professional and personal level over the past several years. I currently serve as the Lynwood Youth Baseball & Softball Commissioner where Julian serves as my Vice Commissioner. I have seen first hand his dedication towards the betterment and improvement of the youth throughout the City of Lynwood. Julian has been a dedicated volunteer, mentor, team parent, and coach within our league. On a personal level, I have had the pleasure of having Julian be a substitute teacher for my boys while he was employed with LUSD. I have seen firsthand his efforts to helping the students in LUSD and now as a teacher with LAUSD. As a former LUSD student, Julian brings not only his personal experiences within the district to the table, but also his knowledge and expertise. He is a product of Lynwood schools that went on to better himself with a formal education, achieving not only a Bachelor's degree, but also receiving his teaching credentials. Julian has also been a dedicated foster parent with LA County. He has mentored, guided and provided a safe environment to the children under his care. In addition, he has several younger siblings currently enrolled within LUSD schools, making him a vested individual that would have the best interest of our students at heart. I truly believe Julian would not only be an asset for the Board of Education, but would greatly compliment the current members. He is willing and ready to hit the ground running if appointed to the vacant seat. Thank you."

Respectfully,

Kimberly Gonzalez

Public Comment for Open Session April 8, 2021

Ariana Sainz

To: boardcomm@mylUSD.org

Thu, Apr 8, 2021 at 1:41 PM

Ariana Sainz

April 8, 2021

Agenda item 10. A. Presentation of applicants to the vacant seat on the school board: In support of Applicant Ruby Rivera

Board committee of Lynwood Unified School District,

Today I write to you addressing my support for the candidacy of Applicant Ruby Rivera. As someone who has known her for my entire lifetime, I can genuinely say that Ruby is the person Lynwood Unified School District needs. Throughout her life, Ruby has supported the academic success of students of all grade levels, including myself and my younger siblings. Her ten-year dedication to youth and community organizing is ideal for a seat on the school board of her hometown, Lynwood. It is without a doubt that her experiences in both education and community organizing will help her goal to serve as the bridge between the school board and the Lynwood community of students, parents, teachers, and staff. LUSD needs a person who understands the academic needs of students as well as the ability to meet the demands and concerns of the educational environment, which is why I ask of you all to consider the candidacy of Ruby Rivera.

Thank you.

Public Comment for Open Session: Agenda item 10A. In support of Applicant Ruby Rivera

Laura Zavala

To: boardcomm@mylUSD.org

Thu, Apr 8, 2021 at 2:31 PM

Dear appointment committee,

My name is Laura Zavala and I am the Director of Policy and Campaign Development with InnerCity Struggle, a local non-profit organization that has worked with youth and parent leaders in the Eastside of Los Angeles for over 25 years. Throughout my 9 years with InnerCity Struggle, I have worked in several coalition and alliance spaces with Ruby Rivera and have witnessed her leadership and capacity as an organizer, advocate and community leader during her time with Legacy LA.

Her strong understanding of the education system and the educational needs of students and families most impacted is not only a skill, but a framework for guiding solution oriented engagement and investments to close existing achievement gaps. Ruby's ability to engage with community members, identify the root cause of systemic injustices and build towards innovative and equitable investments and policy will serve as a vital asset to the Lynwood education ecosystem, especially in the times of economic and post pandemic recovery.

I strongly support appointing Ruby Rivera to the Lynwood School Board.

Thank you,

Laura Zavala

Public Comment for Open Session

Gloria Gutierrez

To: boardcomm@mylUSD.org

Thu, Apr 8, 2021 at 3:17 PM

Agenda item 10.A. Presentation of applicants to the vacant seat on the school board: In support of Applicant Ruby Rivera

Hello,

My name is Gloria Gutierrez and I'm submitting an electronic public comment in support of applicant Ruby Rivera. I've had the opportunity to see the positive impact Ruby has had on the greater Eastside communities by working alongside and lifting the voices of youth and their families to truly transform the conditions of their education and community. She understands that the needs of the students goes beyond the classroom and is tied to the larger political landscape of the neighborhood they live in. I believe Ruby is the ideal candidate for this position and her addition will strengthen the board with her experience and leadership in policy advocacy, community organizing and program development. Thank you for your time.

Information:

Gloria Gutierrez

public comment for open session- re: Ruby Rivera

Wendy Ortega

Thu, Apr 8, 2021 at 3:17 PM

To: "boardcomm@mylUSD.org" <boardcomm@mylUSD.org>

Hello-

Wendy Ortega

Board Meeting

Date 04/08/21

Subject: public comment for open session

Agenda: item/topic: agenda item 10.A.

Presentation of applicants to the vacant seat on the school board:

In support of applicant Ruby Rivera

Public comment:

Ruby Rivera has been an advocate for youth development and academia since her days as a Lynwood Knight.

She has been a strong example of what leadership looks like in ongoing efforts of youth development policy in the city of Los Angeles.

She has over 10+ years' experience and a special skill set and passion in youth organizing , is a fierce advocate for program development, implementation and curriculum development.

Ruby has provided mental health resources for youth and adults; something our community is in desperate need of.

Both a UCLA & USC alumni, she brings pride to our community and can connect with our youth because she understands and is a prime example of What it is to have grown up in Lynwood.

Ruby Experienced firsthand the success of our LUSD school system.

Please consider candidate Ruby Rivera for our school board.

Thank you for your time

Wendy Ortega

Public Comment for Open Session

Henry Perez

Thu, Apr 8, 2021 at 3:23 PM

To: boardcomm@mylUSD.org

Date: April 8, 2021

My name: Henry Perez

Phone number:

Address:

Agenda Item/Topic: **Agenda item 10.A. Presentation of applicants to the vacant seat on the school board: In support of Applicant Ruby Rivera**

I support the appointment of Ruby Rivera to the vacant school board seat at Lynwood Unified. She is the best candidate. She is born and raised in the community. She has over 10 years of being a community advocate. Youth development is her passion. She will be a voice for youth!

Letter of support for Mr. Julian del Real

Custodio Gomez

To: boardcomm@mylUSD.org

Thu, Apr 8, 2021 at 3:28 PM

I would hope that this letter could be added in support of Mr. Julian del Real's candidacy to fill the School Board vacancy.

--

Custodio Gomez, M.A.
World History/Government Teacher
Mock Trial Coach
Academic Decathlon Coach



Letter of Recommendation Julian del Real.pdf

154K

April 08, 2021

Dear Sir or Madam:

I have known Julian del Real for the past four years and it is with great pleasure and confidence that I recommend Mr. del Real to fill the open position on our school board. I first met Mr. del Real when he worked as a substitute teacher at Lynwood High School. I have always been impressed with Mr. del Real's professionalism and consistently high level of focus. He has excellent teaching skills, and a strong commitment to our students.

Mr. del Real is thoughtful, caring, and very well organized – all qualities that will serve him well as a member of our school board. Mr. del Real represents the highest virtues of a Lynwood resident and deserves that chance to make a difference in this city. When my son was three years old, he required open heart surgery, it thankfully went well, but I had to be out of my classroom for an extended period. Mr. del Real was my go-to substitute because I knew that with him my students were in good hands. Mr. del Real would join me on the phone and try his best to get my classes on AESOP as soon as the substitute job posted. His dedication earned my gratitude. He will not let us down.

Julian del Real is an outstanding person with a deep commitment to completing any task he sets her mind to. Mr. del Real will bring so much good to our school district that I know you will be as proud him as I am.

Feel free to contact me with any questions or comments, at

Yours respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Gomez', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Custodio Gomez, MA History.
Social Studies Teacher
Academic Decathlon Coach
Mock Trial Coach

Public Comment for Open Session

Abel Pinedo

Thu, Apr 8, 2021 at 3:38 PM

To: boardcomm@mylUSD.org

Board meeting Date: April 8, 2021

Agenda item: 10.A - Presentation of applicants to the vacant seat on the school board: In support of Applicant Ruby Rivera

My name is Abel Pinedo, a current resident of Lynwood, CA and a Lynwood Unified School District alumnus and wish to pledge my support for Ruby Rivera to fill the vacant school board seat. Her nearly decades long work with Legacy LA, a non-profit focused on youth engagement and development, shows us that her passion is ensuring that the next generation has the tools necessary to succeed. I believe her experience and knowledge would be a great asset to our Lynwood community.

Abel Pinedo

Support for Julian Del Real-Calleros

Gloria Martinez

To: boardcomm@mylUSD.org

Thu, Apr 8, 2021 at 3:42 PM

Good afternoon Board Members,

My name is Gloria Martinez, I am a proud Lynwood resident and parent of a Lynwood Scholar. I write to you to voice my support for Julian Del Real-Calleros to be appointed to the vacant seat. He is a passionate educator who cares deeply about his students. I've had the opportunity to get to know his story and I am inspired by his ability to succeed academically despite early setbacks. It is uplifting to see young professional like him who can be relatable to our youth, take interest in being active board members.

Please consider him to fill the current vacant seat.

Thank you and have a wonderful rest of your day.

--

Gloria D. Martinez

Financial Services Professional

Address:

Email:

Phone:

Public Comment for Open Session/ Agenda item 10.A. Presentation of applicants to the vacant seat on the school board: In support of Applicant Ruby Rivera

Perla Rivera Ramirez
To: boardcomm@mylUSD.org

Thu, Apr 8, 2021 at 3:44 PM

Perla M. Rivera Ramirez

Board Meeting Date: **April 8, 2021**

Subject: **Public Comment for Open Session**

Agenda Item/Topic: **Agenda item 10.A. Presentation of applicants to the vacant seat on the school board: In support of Applicant Ruby Rivera**

My name is Perla Rivera Ramirez, I am a resident of Lynwood, an alumni, and an educator. I ask that the Lynwood School Board select Ruby Rivera as one of their own because Ruby's background, her experience, and her commitment to social justice is exactly what our students need.

Ruby Rivera is a product of the Lynwood educational system, having attended Washington Elementary, Hosler Middle School, and Lynwood High School. Her commitment to uplifting her community began early on from organizing blood drives and other events in high school and continued on through her time at UCLA and USC for undergraduate and graduate school, respectively.

Her background in Chicana Studies and her MSW with an emphasis on community organization and business innovation allow Ruby to analyze problems and create solutions based on needs assessments with collaboration from various stakeholders. Our school board needs members who will be solution oriented while still having a social justice background, Ruby fits this mold.

As a long time advocate for youth, and someone who has developed and managed various youth programs Ruby will fight for equitable access to education for all Lynwood students. She has worked closely with the youth, and I am sure if elected to the school board she will use her skillset to ensure that their voices are heard and their needs met, while ensuring that all members of the Lynwood educational community are part of the process.

Ruby's experience with policy and working alongside various communities, organizations, and Los Angeles City Council members will benefit all Lynwood stakeholders. Her ability to understand policy, her communication skills, and her experience in educational programming can be an asset to the school board.

Furthermore, Ruby has a personal stake for the continued improvement of the Lynwood Unified School District. With family members and friends attending Lynwood schools as students or as educators and staff members, it is in the best interest of them that she decided to run for a seat.

Sincerely,

Perla Rivera

04-22-2021

I would definitely recommend Julian De Real for school board. From what I've seen he has a passion and a desire for his community. He's very caring and very patient. He also has excellent communication with the parents of the children. He's coached my son and from that I've seen how hard he's encouraged him to try and do better and how much he's taught him.

Elva Diaz
To: boardcomm@mylUSD.org

Thu, Apr 8, 2021 at 3:51 PM

Public Comment for Open Session :: April 8, 2021 Special Meeting

Sabrina Bow

To: boardcomm@mylUSD.org

Thu, Apr 8, 2021 at 3:58 PM

Regarding

10.A. Presentation of Applicants to the Vacant Seat on the School Board

10.B. Public Comment

Dear Members of the Lynwood Unified School District Board of Education,

My name is Dr. Sabrina Bow, and I write to you today to share my full endorsement of Ruby Rivera for appointment to the Lynwood Unified Board of Education.

As a 20-year veteran public school educator and as a member of the Azusa Unified School District Board of Education, I can attest to the commitment to community, collaboration, and continuous improvement that Ruby has demonstrated throughout her professional career. Her drive to make local, actionable change will be a wonderful addition to the decision making responsibilities of the District. Ruby's personality and leadership style bring the right mix of active listening, compassion, and relatability--traits that make her an ideal candidate to represent the students and families of the Lynwood community. Again, please accept my full endorsement of Ruby Rivera for the Lynwood Board of Education.

Sincerely,
Dr. Sabrina Bow

Contact info:
Dr. Sabrina Bow

SABRINA BOW, MBA, Ed.D.

Public Comment for Open Session

jackie macias

Thu, Apr 8, 2021 at 3:59 PM

To: "boardcomm@mylUSD.org" <boardcomm@mylUSD.org>

Agenda item 10.A. Presentation of applicants to the vacant seat on the school board: In support of Applicant Ruby Rivera

Jacqueline Macias

Board Meeting Date: April 8, 2021

To Whom It May Concern,

Ruby Rivera would be the perfect candidate to fill the vacant seat on the school board. Her dedication to helping those in her community and her experience in youth development, educational support, advocacy and community organizing merit the candidacy. The City of Lynwood needs more people like Ms. Rivera, who will utilize her skills for the better good of our students, parents and educational workers. Her unique perspective on solutions, innovation and centering will greatly impact the community members of Lynwood.

As an alumni of the Lynwood School District, I look forward to a brighter future for our students.

Best Regards,

Jacqueline Macias

Public Comment for Open Session

cindy donis

To: boardcomm@mylUSD.org

Thu, Apr 8, 2021 at 3:59 PM

1. Cindy Donis
- 2.
- 3.
4. Board Meeting Date: **April 8, 2021**
5. Agenda Item/Topic: **Agenda item 10.A. Presentation of applicants to the vacant seat on the school board: In support of Applicant Ruby Rivera**
6. Comment:
 - Hi my name is Cindy Donis. I am a resident in South Gate and have grown up in South East LA my whole life. Ruby Rivera would make a great addition to the Lynwood School Board and provide such important insight to the needs of students, parents, teachers, faculty and staff throughout the entire district. I have seen her support youth of color in Boyle Heights and East Los Angeles through her work and organizing experience at Legacy LA. She was able to build the capacity of youth and community members to develop positive solutions to community issues and advocate to decision makers to bring them to fruition. It would be so powerful to see her do that and more in her own community here in Lynwood and South East LA if given the opportunity.